

# Campaign to Remove Mercury Switches from Cars

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BTS Mercury Workgroup

May 29-30, 2002



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# Clean Car Campaign

A Collaboration Between:


- Ecology Center
- Environmental Defense
- Great Lakes United
- Michigan Environmental

Council

- Union of Concerned Scientists
- The Mercury Policy Project
- American Council for an

Energy Efficient

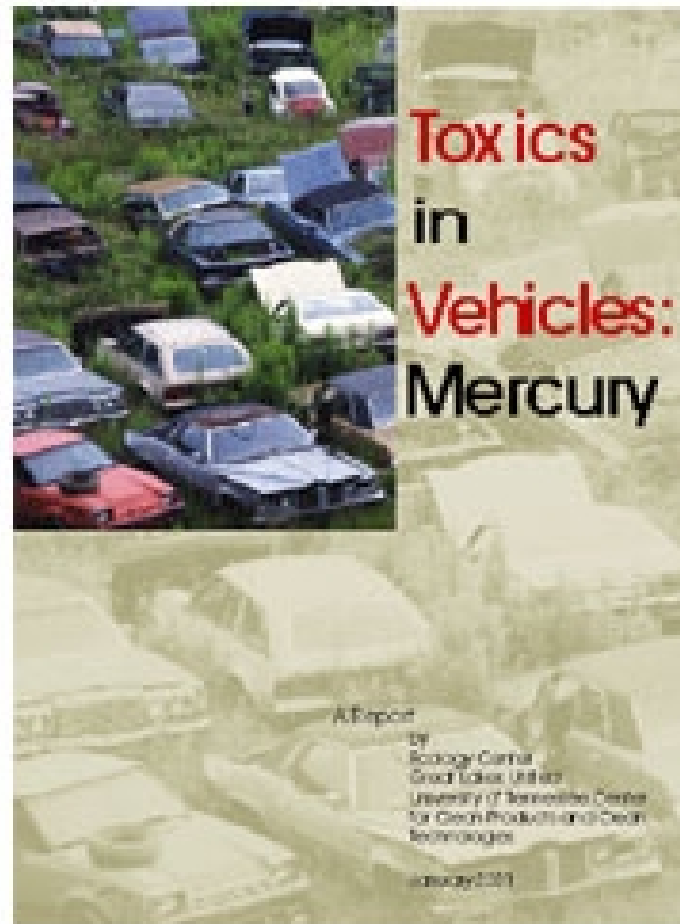


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## The Clean Car Campaign Embodies the Principles of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)

- Manufacturers responsibility  
for product  
life cycle impacts
- EPR forges the critical link  
between the  
end-of-life products and  
product design
- Responsibility of products  
throughout

# Strategic Research



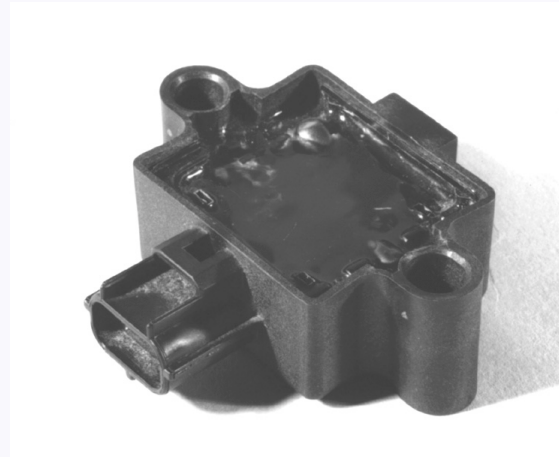
## Mercury in Fleet

- 11.2 tons used in U.S. vehicles in 1996
- 150 million switches

# Auto Mercury Applications

## Convenience Lighting

"Most" pre-1995 hood and truck lights



## Other

HID Headlamps

Navigational displays


Backlit instruments

Family entertainment systems

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# Goals for Auto Mercury Project

- Raise public awareness  
about mercury  
use in vehicles
- Producer responsibility for  
automakers  
to establish mercury switch  
removal  
and collection programs
- Ultimate elimination of  
mercury use in  
vehicles

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# Proposed Mercury Switch Collection Program

- Combination of In-Use and End-of-Life Collection
- Goal of 90% Capture Rate
- Phase-out and labeling of all mercury-added components

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# US Mercury Legislation Survey

- 30 responses to date
- 3 state mercury contacts were

unaware of mercury in vehicles

- All of the respondents have

expressed an interest in



# Legislation:

Maine - Require removal of mercury switches and headlamps before vehicles are crushed.

Colorado - Exploring legislation and watching other states.

California - Mercury Reduction Act encourages removal of mercury light switches from cars. The legislation also placed automobile light switches as a universal waste.


Oregon - Requires the removal of Hg containing convenience switches from  
The Great Lakes United

# Legislation:

Vermont - Vehicles that contain mercury must be labeled, proposing legislation that will require removal of mercury added components at salvage or solid waste facilities.

Rhode Island - Legislation has been proposed in RI General Assembly

New York - Enforcing Stormwater permitting legislation requiring auto shredders to have a plan to

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## **Interaction With Automobile Manufacturers, Recyclers, Dismantlers, Auto Scrap Yards, Shredders & Steel Processing Mills.**

Maine - Stakeholder group gathered several times and produced a report and proposed legislation from which the current legislation was written

Rhode Island - Had limited interaction when Rhode Island's large mercury products bill was being debated before the RI General assembly.

Arkansas - Held a seminar in April 2001 "environmental issues in auto recycling"

## Interaction (cont'd)

Vermont - Auto Manufacturers are required to label the car doorpost with any components that contain mercury.

Oregon - Cosponsored a Switch the Switch Project with NW Trades Association. Also met with auto recyclers and steel mills to talk about legislation.

California - In the process of assembling an action plan to implement SB 633 which includes interactions with dismantlers, repair shops, etc

Colorado - Interactions with steel

# Resources Available

Campaign Web Page:

[www.cleancarcampaign.org](http://www.cleancarcampaign.org)



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